



GREENSBORO URBAN AREA

Technical Coordinating Committee

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of August 29, 2001
3:00 p.m. Greensboro, NC

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandy Carmany	TAC Chair, City Council
Mayor Keith Holliday	City Council
Don Vaughan	City Council
Mary Rakestraw	Board of County Commissioners

OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Westmoreland	TCC Chair / GDOT	Pat Strong	FHWA
Richard Atkins	Neal-Schaffer	Mike Cowan	NCDOT - Division 7
Jim Ayres	Town of Pleasant Garden	Craig McKinney	GDOT
Tyler Meyer	GDOT	Doug Galyon	NCDOT
Scott Rhine	PART	Alec MacIntosh	Greensboro Planning Department

Sandy Carmany called the meeting to order at approximately 3:05 p.m.

Action Items

Approval of Minutes of July 25, 2001

Don Vaughan moved for the approval of July 25, 2001 minutes. Robbie Perkins seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approve Long Range Plan, MTIP & Conformity Documents

Tyler Meyer informed the Committee that the key point is that the new MTIP is slated to go into effect October 1. The Long Range Transportation plan must be adopted for the MTIP to be able to be adopted, and the Conformity Analysis must check out for either to be valid. Following action by the MPO, USDOT will make a final determination of conformity. Two comments on the Long Range plan were received from the public review period for these documents. Both the NCDOT Public Transportation Division and PART noted minor

corrections. PART also supported continuation of regional planning in the area and adding the proposed Forsyth Connector to the Long Range Plan—this will be done following completion of the Airport Area Transportation Study. Comments received from the regulatory agency comment period have been included in the document and the current version.

Tyler Meyer stated the first recommended action was for TAC to make a conformity finding. Don Vaughan moved for approval. Robbie Perkins seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The next recommended action was adoption of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Don Vaughan moved approval. Robbie Perkins seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The third recommended action was MTIP adoption. Don Vaughan moved approval. Robbie Perkins seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously in favor of the motion. Jim Westmoreland stated his appreciation of the hard work done by MPO staff, State DOT and the federal agencies on these documents.

Federal STP DA Funds

Tyler Meyer stated that following TMA designation by USDOT in 2002, the MPO will be eligible to direct an annual apportionment of STP DA funds to TIP projects. Such projects could be NCDOT projects (project development status permitting), local projects, or joint projects. Eligible project types include roadway, transit, sidewalk, trail, and other types of projects including noise wall upgrades. Meyer described the local match and project management requirements. If the MPO elects to exercise this authority, the next step would be for the MPO to inform NCDOT of its intent to direct the area's apportionment of STP DA funds to TIP projects. Following TAC guidance at the July 25 meeting, staff offered resolution of intent to direct STP DA funds for TAC consideration. Discussion followed on more general transportation finance issues as well as the need to adopt the resolution. Don Vaughan moved to approve the resolution. Robbie Perkins seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Resolution of Support for Accelerating the Eastern Urban Loop

Tyler Meyer presented the proposed resolution and noted that it was developed in response to a TAC request. Robbie Perkins noted that the resolution will be helpful for supporting the continuing economic development the areas served by the Eastern Loop. Doug Galyon asked whether this was meant to supercede existing priorities such as completion of the Southern Loop and the Western Urban Loop between I-85 to I-40. The Committee responded that it was not. Following discussion, the resolution was amended to include the statement that the request for acceleration of the Eastern Urban Loop was subject to existing priorities. It was agreed that the MPO would review the issue further through the Priority Needs process before considering changes to MPO priorities. Don Vaughan moved to adopt the amended resolution. Robbie Perkins seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

AMPO Representation

Tyler Meyer noted the MPO is an AMPO member. To cast a vote at the upcoming AMPO annual meeting, designation of a voting representative and alternate was needed. The recommended representative was the TAC Chair and the alternate the Transportation Planning Manager. Meyer stated he will be attending the AMPO conference in Atlanta in October. Mary Rakestraw moved for approval of the recommended action, seconded by Robbie Perkins. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

NC 68 Widening

Tyler Meyer stated that NCDOT's Program Development Branch had requested a resolution of support for this project and any TIP amendments that may be needed in connection with it. Don Vaughan moved approval of the resolution.. Mary Rakestraw seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Business Items

Reedy Fork Development and US 29 Interchanges

Richard Atkins advised the committee that in January 2000, the City Council annexed the 1800 acres of the Reedy Fork development. Neel-Schaffer assisted the Starmont Company with a traffic impact study that identified needed improvements which included reconstruction and capacity expansion for the Ekerson/US 29 Interchange, as well as surface street and traffic signal improvements. Atkins reviewed the timeline of planning efforts for these roadway improvements, and particularly the intersection project. Atkins' key recommendations were 1) that an additional interchange (with a single point urban diamond design) in the vicinity of Brown's Summitt Road be added to the Thoroughfare Plan element of the MPO's Long Range Plan; and 2) that the Eckerson Road Interchange Reconstruction be identified as a TIP priority on the MPO's next MPO Priority Needs List. Westmoreland advised that no action needed to be taken. This was for informational purposes only. Mr. Atkins advised the development has an expected build out period of approximately 20 years.

Staff Update on Ongoing Planning Items

Tyler Meyer advised that the Pegg to Thatcher Road Connector Feasibility Study would be added to the TIP in the near future. The Guilford College/Gallimore Dairy Road will be added as a TIP amendment as well in connection with a cost sharing arrangement between the City of Greensboro and NCDOT.

Other Items

Board Member Update

Doug Galyon observed that continuing progress towards construction of the I-85 to I-40 section of the Western Urban Loop is crucial. He also advised the Committee that the Airport Authority has signed an agreement for approval by the Board of Transportation next Thursday.

The agreement will enable Bryan Boulevard to be moved north of the proposed runway. Galyon also observed the need to improve a Sandy Ridge Road connection to the airport from High Point. Mike Cowan noted that two bridge columns are missing on the I-40 construction, and it would be 120 days before completion. Jim Westmoreland stated that effective public outreach on the current schedule is important in light of citizen concerns.

Don Vaughan informed the Committee that he received a request to rename Painter Boulevard to Billy Crash Craddock Boulevard. Following some discussion of this request, Doug Galyon stated that the NCDOT Naming Committee will no longer consider a renaming request prior to a resolution of interest from the local governing body.

Town Reports

None.

Regional Update

Scott Rhine shared his perspective on the Airport Transportation Study and stated that an interagency meet will bring key agencies together for a roundtable discussion in September. This discussion would be important to refining the direction that this study will take. He reported on the PART Rail Study Open Houses and upcoming activities. Some discussion followed regarding PART's request for authorization to levy a rental car tax from the Guilford County Commissioners.

Upcoming Planning Items

Tyler Meyer said that now that the TIP for FY 2002-2008 has been adopted, it's time to start planning for the next TIP: for FY 2004-2010. The first step will be identifying new MPO Priority Needs. The next step will be the MPO Priority Session in early 2002. He also reported that staff is working to identify a schedule for a thoroughfare plan update. He noted that the fact that the last comprehensive evaluation and update occurred in 1989 illustrated the need for this update.

Doug Galyon related that the Southeast High Speed Rail corridor was critical for the area in the long term and discussed the importance of the Greensboro Area Chamber of Commerce in the Southeast High Speed Rail Initiative, a private consortium including the Chambers of Raleigh, Charlotte and Winston-Salem, Atlanta, etc. Mr. Galyon noted that he had assisted the Chamber in securing the foundation grant required to cover the membership fee in light of the Chamber's recent financial situation. The next public hearing on the High Speed Rail in Guilford County will be November 1, 2001.

Don Vaughan moved to adjourn the meeting. Robbie Perkins seconded the motion. The TAC meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.